

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:GSCOTT:AB
APPROVED BY D:WARREN CHRISTOPHER
AF:WHARROP
S/S-O :SRPVALERGA
-----018685 241552Z /45
O 241548Z FEB 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 048078

NODIS
EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR; WH FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SO, US, MASS, PBOR

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND
SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU

1. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY RECEIVED AMBASSADOR ADDOU ON
FEBRUARY 23 TO REPLY TO THE TWO QUESTIONS ADDOU HAD ASKED
THE SECRETARY ON FEBRUARY 22.
2. IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR THIRD COUNTRY ARMS
TRANSFERS, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HANDED ADDOU THE FOLLOWING
TEXT:

QUOTE: IF SOMALIA MAKES A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT
IT WILL PROMPTLY WITHDRAW ALL OF ITS FORCES FROM THE
OGADEN AND TAKES THE NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THIS
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DECISION, WE ARE PREPARED TO INITIATE ACTION WITH THE
CONGRESS TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN THIRD COUNTRY
TRANSFERS OF DEFENSIVE US ARMS TO SOMALIA PROVIDED THAT
THEY BE USED ONLY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES WITHIN SOMALIA'S
INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BORDERS. UNQUOTE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST THAT SIAD COME TO WASHING-

TON, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE COULDN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF PRESIDENT SIAD COULD AFFORD TO BE ABSENT FROM SOMALIA AT THIS TIME. IN ANY CASE, WE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT NOW WAS AN OPPORTUNE TIME FOR A VISIT, ALTHOUGH SUCH A CONCLUSION WAS NOT MEANT TO PREJUDGE CONSIDERATION OF A POSSIBLE VISIT IN THE FUTURE.

4. AFTER STUDYING THE TEXT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN, ADDOU NOTED THAT NECESSARILY SOME TIME WOULD ELAPSE BETWEEN THE SOMALI ANNOUNCEMENT AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION. SINCE THE GSDR WAS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN CONSULTATIONS ABOUT FURTHER OAU ACTION AND HAD CONVEYED TO US THEIR THINKING ON THE STEPS TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, WOULD TOO HASTY A WITHDRAWAL NOT PREEMPT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS? SHOULD NOT TIME BE MADE FOR THE US TO MOVE TO PROVIDE DEFENSIVE ASSISTANCE AND FOR THE AFRICANS TO WORK OUT AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION BEFORE THE WITHDRAWAL WAS IMPLEMENTED? THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE SUPPORTED THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND WERE ANXIOUS TO MOVE IT FORWARD. BUT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE SEPARATE FROM OUR AGREEMENT TO INITIATE ACTION FOR THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS. WE WOULD NOT GO TO THE CONGRESS BEFORE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN.

5. ADDOU THEN ASKED IF THE GSDR COULD NOT ANNOUNCE
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ITS INTENTIONS TO WITHDRAW, AND THEN THE US ANNOUNCE ITS WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ARMS, THUS HAVING A PARALLEL PROCESS. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REITERATED THAT WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS UNTIL THE NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE ANNOUNCEMENT HAD BEEN TAKEN.

6. ADDOU SAID HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT SIAD'S RESPONSE WOULD BE TO THE REQUIREMENT THAT SOMALIA TAKE BOTH STEPS WITHOUT A MOVE FROM THE US SIDE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE DECISION TO PROVIDE FOR THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS WAS A BIG DECISION FOR US. CONGRESS WOULD NOT EXPECT LESS STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS OF US. WHILE WE WOULD ENTERTAIN GSDR EXPLANATIONS OF THE NATURE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION STEPS TAKEN, WE COULD NOT INITIATE ACTION ON THE BASIS OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT ALONE.

7. ADDOU INSISTED THAT WITHDRAWAL AS WE REQUESTED WOULD KILL THE PEACE PROSPECTS. COULD THE GSDR NOT MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND SAY IT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED PROVIDED THEY RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT THE PEACE

PROCESS WOULD GO FORWARD? THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT WITHDRAWAL COULD BE LINKED TO THE PEACE PROCESS. THIS WAS NOT THE LAST TIME WE WOULD MEET TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT IF THE GSDR WISHED TO MAKE THE WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENT AND THEN INVOKE THE PEACE PROCESS, WE WOULD SUPPORT THE EFFORT. HOWEVER, THAT WAS SEPARATE FROM THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS. STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE WITHDRAWAL MUST BE TAKEN BEFORE WE COULD GO TO THE CONGRESS.

8. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, ADDOU SAID THE GSDR INTENDED TO WORK THROUGH THE OAU RATHER THAN GO TO THE UN. HE PLANNED TO RETURN TO MOGADISCIO AROUND FEBRUARY
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28.

9. PLEASE NOTE: WE HAVE SENT YOU THIS REPORT SO THAT YOU WILL BE IN A POSITION TO RESPOND IF SIAD SHOULD RAISE THE SUBJECT, BUT WE DO NOT WISH YOU TO INFORM THE GSDR OF OUR DECISION. WE PREFER THAT THE CONTENT OF THE MEETING BE RELAYED BY ADDOU. IF WE LATER DISCOVER THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO RELAY IT, OR HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE HE HAS NOT RELAYED IT ACCURATELY, WE WILL THEN INSTRUCT YOU TO TAKE UP THE SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT SIAD. VANCE

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